

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:  
APPLICATION FILING

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Subject:  
Tribal TANF Plans

**Supersedes:** TANF 103-7 (01/01/06)

**References:** 45 CFR 286.1 and .15; ARM 37.78.102

GENERAL RULE—Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) allows each Indian tribe to develop a tribal temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) plan. Tribal TANF plans are federally funded. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (**CSKT**), the Fort Belknap Indian Community (**FBIC**), the Chippewa and Cree Tribe (**CCTT**), and the Blackfeet Nation (**BL**) have developed such a plan.

**CSKT** To be considered eligible for the CSKT (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) TANF Plan, the family must:

- contain at least one **enrolled** member of the **CSKT** (Flathead Nation) and
- reside within the geographical boundaries of the Flathead Reservation.

CSKT staff of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) located in Pablo, Montana, administers the CSKT TANF Plan.

► **NOTE:** Tribal TANF benefits received under the CSKT Tribal TANF Plan are countable towards the TANF 60-month time limit as the Flathead Reservation does not qualify for the federal exclusion based on having less than 50% unemployment rate.

► Effective Date of Plan: 2/1/99  
► TEAMS Code: MT SK

**FBIC** To be considered eligible for the (FBIC Fort Belknap Indian Community) TANF Plan, the family must:

- contain at least one **enrolled** member of a federally recognized Indian tribe and
- reside in Blaine County or on the Fort Belknap reservation in Phillips County (even if the mailing address is Harlem or Dodson).

The FBIC TANF Plan is administered by FBIC staff located in Fort Belknap and an out stationed office located in Havre, Montana.

► **NOTE:** Tribal TANF benefits received under the FBIC Tribal TANF Plan are not countable towards the TANF 60-month time limit unless the household is living in Dodson or Harlem.

► Effective Date of Plan: 10/1/00

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► TEAMS Code: MT FB

**CCTT**

To be considered for the CCTT (Chippewa Cree Tribes) Tribal TANF Plan, the family must:

- include at least one child or caretaker relative (excluding step-parents) who is enrolled or eligible to be **enrolled** in a federally recognized tribe and
- reside in Hill County; **or** reside in that portion of Choteau County, Montana, within the exterior boundaries of the Tribe's Reservation.

The Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee located in Box Elder, Montana, Rocky Boy's Reservation, administers the CCTT Plan.

► **NOTE:** Tribal TANF benefits received under the CCTT Tribal TANF Plan are not countable towards the TANF 60-month time limit unless the household is living in Hill County but is not living within the geographical boundaries of the reservation.

► Effective Date of Plan: 11/1/04

► TEAMS Code: MT RB

**► BL**

To be considered eligible for the BL (Blackfeet Nation) Tribal TANF program, the family must:

- contain only enrolled members of the Blackfeet Nation and
- reside 'on and near' the Blackfeet Reservation, as defined by the Federal government. The service area will include all communities within the exterior boundaries of the Blackfeet Reservation, as well as the communities of Cut Bank, Valier and Dupuyer.

The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (BTBC), P O Box 850, Browning, MT 59417, and the Blackfeet Manpower Department administer the Blackfeet Tribal TANF Program.

**NOTE:** Tribal TANF benefits received under the Blackfeet Tribal TANF Plan are not countable towards the TANF 60-month time limit unless the household is living in a community served by the Blackfeet Tribal Plan but does not reside within the geographical boundaries of the reservation. (Example: Cut Bank, Valier and Dupuyer)

► Initial Effective Date of Plan: 08/01/05

► Effective Date of New Plan: 01/01/07

► TEAMS Code: MT BL

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**ACCESSING  
OTHER  
PROGRAMS/  
BENEFITS**

Food Stamp and Medicaid benefits for families receiving Tribal TANF benefits will be determined by a state Eligibility Case Manager.

**ELIGIBILITY  
DETERMINATION**

The Tribal TANF worker will determine eligibility and issue Tribal TANF cash assistance benefits for those families meeting the Tribal TANF Plan criteria. Eligibility for the Tribal TANF Plan will be determined outside of the TEAMS system. The Tribal Individual Family Plan (IFP) or Tribal Assistance Plan (TAP) will be used in place of the Family Investment Agreement/WoRC Employability Plan (FIA/EP). The Tribal TANF worker will also evaluate childcare assistance for qualified families.

**TANF-60  
CLOCKS**

Each month of Tribal TANF (cash) assistance may count as one month of assistance against the TANF clock. Because Tribal TANF eligibility is not determined through the TEAMS process, to assure the TANF clock is correct, Form FA-100, "Out-Of-State TANF Verification Request", must be submitted to Central Office. (Refer to TANF 803-1)



**NOTE:** For information on the MT Time Clock, see TANF 802-1.

**CASE  
TRANSFER  
(SENDING  
COUNTY)**

When a family, currently receiving benefits (Food Stamps, Medicaid, or TANF cash assistance) requests transfer because they are moving and will be residing in a tribal plan area, complete all pending actions according to the regular transfer policy. (Example: income changes, overpayments, etc.). See 1512-1. **Transfer the case and mail the hard copy case file and the WoRC case management file** to the requested county's Office of Public Assistance.

**CASE  
TRANSFER  
(RECEIVING  
COUNTY)**

The Eligibility Case Manager in the county the family is moving to will review the case to identify families that appear to be qualified for Tribal TANF and expedite the TANF case transition to the Tribal TANF office as appropriate.

If the family does not qualify for Tribal TANF and all eligibility requirements continue to be met for state TANF, the TANF case will continue to be administered by the OPA office.

**NOTE:** If the individual is now eligible for Tribal TANF, hard copy case files will not be transferred to Tribal case managers. However, if the participant requests copies of birth certificates or other permanent documents, copies will be provided by the OPA office in possession of the hard copy case file.

**TRANSFER  
PROCEDURE****ACTION**TRANSFERRING  
COUNTY→

1. Transfer (do not close) the TANF cash assistance, Food Stamp or Medicaid case.

RECEIVING  
COUNTY→

2. Close the TANF cash assistance the end of the request month  
Use TEAMS Denial/Closure code: **'TPC'**;

3. Send TEAMS Notices as follows:

A603 for CSKT,  
A602 for FBIC,  
A608 for CCTT, or  
A610 for BL.

The TEAMS notices inform the family of the following:

- 1) that their case is being transferred and why it is,
  - 2) whether they need to reapply for cash assistance under that particular Tribal TANF program,
  - 3) household members under TANF cash assistance sanction will not be served by the Tribal TANF Plan until the sanction penalty period has been served,
  - 4) child care assistance under the State Block Grant will be closed and they will need to discuss their need for child care with the Tribal Worker,
- and
- 5) their Food Stamp and/or Medicaid program benefits will be maintained by the State Eligibility Case Manager.

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